

Message Text

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL DELEGATION

1. AUSTRALIANS HERE HAVE PASSED US SEVERAL REPORTS PREPARED ON THE VISIT TO THE PRC OF AN AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL MISSION OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 3. WE ARE REPORTING THIS TELEGRAPHICALLY SINCE THE AUSTRALIANS CONSIDER IT A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT OPENING UP SEVERAL NEW AREAS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES. THE GROUP WAS TREATED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL AND WAS PERMITTED TO GO TO SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE PEKING BALLET SCHOOL INFREQUENTLY VISITED BY FOREIGNERS. TOWARD THE END OF THE VISIT IT WAS THE CHINESE SIDE WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO SUGGEST THAT SOME TYPE OF AGREEMENT BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE TO FORMALIZE VARIOUS PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY BOTH SIDES. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE PREPARED BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY STATING THAT "IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THIS RECORD CONSTITUTES A CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED." ENTIRE CHINESE APPROACH SUGGESTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE REGAINED SOME OF THE FLEXIBILITY ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES LOST DURING THE PAST YEAR'S POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR AGREEMENTS REACHED:

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A. PERFORMING ARTS - TWO COUNTRIES WILL EXCHANGE

PERFORMING ARTS TROUPES DURING 1975 AND AUSTRALIANS WILL ALSO SEND CHINA MUSIC CONDUCTORS AND BALLET TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING ACTIVITIES WITH CHINESE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

B. EXHIBITIONS - AUSTRALIA WILL SEND AN EXHIBITION OF LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS TO CHINA (A CHINESE PREFERENCE, THE AUSTRALIANS PREFER AND EXHIBITION OF MUSEUM SPECIMENS OF AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS) AND CHINA WILL SEND AN ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT. THE TWO SIDES WILL BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION SIMILAR TO THE TWO CHINESE EXHIBITS NOW ABROAD, BUT AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THIS.

C. EDUCATION - AN EXCHANGE OF UNIVERSITY LEVEL TEACHERS WILL BEGIN IN 1975 COMMENCING WITH LANGUAGE TEACHERS. EXCHANGES OF SECONDARY TEACHERS WERE AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE TO BEGIN IN 1976.

D. SPORT - THREE SPORTS EXCHANGES WERE AGREED UPON FOR 1975. CHINESE SHOWED PREFERENCE FOR BASKETBALL, SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL FROM AUSTRALIA AND WILL SEND PING PONG AND SOCCER TEAMS TO AUSTRALIA.

E. MEDIA - AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE EXCHANGE OF NEWSREEL MATERIAL, AND CHINESE SIDE AGREED TO RE-EXAMINE PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF FILM CREWS IN 1976.

F. ENVIRONMENT - AUSTRALIA WILL SEND A STUDY GROUP TO CHINA IN THE FIELD OF URBAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT. BUSH

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